

Col. William Whitley House,  
8 miles southwest of  
Stanford, Kentucky.  
*Lincoln County.*

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Kentucky

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
CENTRAL UNIT — ST. LOUIS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
E. T. Hutchings, District Officer  
1708 Heyburn Building, Louisville, Ky.

Name of structure: Col. William Whitley House

Location: About one mile off Stanford-Grab Orchard pike, U. S. No. 168; eight miles southeast of Stanford, Kentucky

Owner or custodian: Mrs. I. J. Ingle

Address: Lexington, Kentucky

Date built: 1786  
(approx)

Architect or builder:

Present condition: Very bad. Ruined architecturally by addition of front portico, and frame side porch.

Number of stories: Two stories, and attic (finished); and basement.

Material used in construction: Foundation: Native stone.  
Exterior walls: Brick, in Flemish bond, diamond pattern formed by different colored bricks. The letters, "W W" on the front.  
Interior partitions: Brick and frame.  
Floors: Wood, random width, ash and yellow pine. Basement: earth.  
Roof: Frame construction, covered with wood shingles.

Description: architectural and historical Collins' History of Kentucky, Vol. II, page 22: "In 1779, they found Col. Wm. Whitley's Station at Dick's River, on the Kentucky, trace from Cumberland Gap. On the spot still stands a two-story brick house--claimed to be the first brick house built in Kentucky, the windows are set over six feet above the floor, to prevent the Indians seeing or shooting into the rooms".

The stairway in the hall of this ten-room brick house consists of twenty steps, thirteen up to the landing (symbolic of the thirteen colonies), hand-carved railing and newel-post, the latter a reproduction of an Italian harp. Under the ends of each tread of the stairs were hand-carved eagle heads bearing an olive branch in the beak, and other detailed carving in the paneling.

Over the mantel in the parlor there are thirteen small panels (symbolic of the thirteen colonies), and also the entire side of the room shows hand-carved panelings. It is said that in the parlor of this house Col. Whitley made treaties with the Indians; also that Isaac Shelby and George Rogers Clark were numbered among the guests entertained there.

Collins' History of Kentucky, Vol. II, page 760, states that Col. Wm. Whitley was born on August 14, 1749, in that part of Virginia then called Augusta, and that he came to Kentucky in 1775. From page 761 we quote: "In the year 1813, being then in the sixty-fifth year of his age, he volunteered with the Kentucky militia, under Gov. Shelby, and fell in the decisive and victorious battle of the Thames, on the 5th of October.

"Col. Whitley was a man above the ordinary size, of great muscular power, and capable of enduring great fatigue and privation. His courage as a soldier was unquestionable, having been foremost in seventeen battles with the Indians, and one with a more civilized foe. In the battle of the Thames, he fell at the first fire. His memory is cherished throughout Kentucky with profound respect, as that of one uniting the characters of patriot and hero".

Col. Whitley served in the Kentucky Legislature from Lincoln County, 1797. Collins' History of Kentucky Vol. II, page 776.

*L. M. Givens*

*Received 1936 by H.C.F.*